

## ***Winterizing your mailbox***

PennDOT and the U.S. Postal Service are both expected to deliver during the winter season... come rain, sleet, snow or all of the above. The location of your mailbox along the roadway can affect the efficiency of both mail service and snow plowing operations. Where is your mailbox located? Your letter carrier will make every effort to deliver the mail. However, if the mailbox is not accessible to the carrier due to snow buildup, or if it is not properly located along the road, you may have to pick up your mail at the post office. PennDOT allows property owners to place mailboxes within the state's legal right-of-way, out of respect for the U.S. Postal Service's need to deliver, and mail customers' convenience of delivery; however, mailbox damage is the responsibility of the property owner.

Normally, if a mailbox is placed as far from the shoulder of the road as the carrier can reach from a vehicle and the mailbox rests on a firm support, the mailbox should be able to withstand the force of snow from the plowing operation. Be sure your mailbox has a strong support. You also may wish to use reflective tape or other material to make the mailbox easier to see during storms or during dark hours.

Plowing operations can push snow against or in front of mailboxes, limiting access and perhaps causing damage to supports. If the mailbox support is within the highway right-of-way, it's the owner's responsibility.

Check your mailbox and support often, clearing snow from it and depositing the snow properly (never shovel snow onto the road). Homeowners who have followed these tips in the past and have still experienced mailbox damage may wish to consider installing a cantilevered mailbox support that will swing a mailbox out of harm's way. If you have questions as to the proper location of your mailbox along the roadway, contact your local post office.

PennDOT urges your cooperation in winterizing your mailbox for the snow season. Taking steps to ensure the visibility and stability of your mailbox will help PennDOT and letter carriers deliver their best this winter.

# SPECIFICATIONS FOR A CANTILEVER MAILBOX

